

Business Law Resources



**Roundtable Presentation
MBEA Summer Conference
July 25-28, 2005**

**Denise Bader
Farmington High School
dbader@farmington.k12.mo.us**

ACTIVITIES/LESSONS

Current Event Friday:

Students give very short oral reports about some current event that pertains to what we are discussing in class.

Day 1 Law Term Introduction:

I try to show the students that there is a lot of terminology to learn in this course. So, I give them a word search with all kinds of legal terms, but I don't give them a word bank. The idea is to simply see if they can find terms that they have at least heard before.

Law from Birth to Death Timeline:

I have the students create a timeline of life. They must fill in as many examples they can think of to show how laws affect us at every stage of life. See the example below.

Birth Cert.	Taxes	Will
SS #	Consumer Laws	Life insurance
Possibly Adoption	Traffic Laws	Probate
Birth	Adult	Death

Business Law Scrapbook:

Students compare civil and criminal law by making up their own cases. They have to have at least ten crimes and twelve torts. The name of the crime or tort must be listed, as well as the definition of each and an example or story to demonstrate the crime or tort. Graphics must be included as well. A graphic organizer showing how civil and criminal cases are different is required as well.

Contracts:

Students make up their own contracts. They must show that all elements of a contract are present. They do this by color coding the elements with a legend similar to that on a map.

Prenuptial Agreement:

Students play the role of an attorney and write a prenuptial agreement for a fictitious couple. I give them a list of assets that each party owns.

Lease Questions:

I obtain sample leases from landlords and have the students answer questions about them. Questions might include: When is the rent due? How much is the security deposit? Are pets allowed?

Buying vs. Renting:

I give each student a card describing a different family situation. Then I give them cards that have information regarding available housing (location, cost, number of rooms, etc.) They have to choose the housing for the family and justify why that is the best housing setup for the family.

House Payment Calculator:

I have students use the Internet to find their dream home and a more realistic home. After they find the homes, we use the automated accounting software in the lab to calculate the amount of interest (using different rates for comparisons) and the monthly payment.

NEWSLETTERS VIA EMAIL

Civics and Business Law Lesson Plans: (<http://www.lawclass.net>) You can get a monthly lesson plan free, but to get their curriculum there is a fee. Contact Brian Flora at brian@lawclass.net.

Landmark Supreme Court Cases: (newsletters@billofrightsintstitute.org) This newsletter is emailed to you. They have a featured case each month.

MOVIES

Be careful when using movies in business law. There are so many that pertain to our subject, but some may not be appropriate. I give every student a permission letter to take home and get signed. I describe to the parents the types of movies that will be shown in class and explain that the student is NOT required to watch it, and that an alternative assignment may be given. I give a copy to my principal too, and I have never had any problems so far. Just cover yourself!

- “Choices and Consequences—Teen Pranks” This is from Court TV. It has real cases involving teens. It may be obtained from: Court TV; 600 Third Avenue; New York, NY; 10016
Phone: (212) 973-2800 Fax: (212) 973-3355
<http://courttv.com> (Court TV’s website has a number of educational items available. They also have a schedule for each month showing what educational programs will be aired.)
- This website has “Suggestions for Law-Related Movies to Watch and Review”.
<http://northonline.sccd.ctc.edu/bus200cam/projects/lawmovies.htm>.
- Class Action: This 1990 film is rated R. A father and a daughter are both lawyers and they battle it out for this class action case. There are a number of twists and turns in this case. Legal ethics are involved here too.
- 12 Angry Men: I heard there is a newer version of this movie but that it is not as good as the old one. So, I bought the old one. It is black and white and the copyright is 1957. A group of jurors have to determine a case involving a murder.
- Rainmaker: This is based on a John Grisham novel. It is a 1997 video that is rated PG-13. A young lawyer fights an insurance company for a young leukemia victim.
- Civil Action: This movie is very similar to Erin Brokovich.

GUEST SPEAKERS

School Resource Officer, Local Police
Officer, Highway Patrol
Detective
Real Estate Agent
Landlord

Insurance Agent

Land Surveyor
Consumer Credit Counseling Service
Loan Officer

Funeral Director

Lawyer—contact local bar assoc.
Judge

PRINT ITEMS

What Are My Rights?
ISBN: 1-57542-028-7

You’re the Jury
Twelve real life court cases and the verdicts
ISBN: 0-8050-1951-0

What’s the Verdict?
Judge 90 courtroom cases
ISBN: 0-8069-7466-4

Wall Street Journal Classroom Edition
www.wsjclassroom.com
Excellent source for any business class.
Thirty student papers and teacher’s guide for \$165 per year.

WEBSITES

I make up worksheets and have students read information listed on a lot of these sites, so that we get current information for our own state.

Puzzles	www.puzzlemaker.com www.qualint.com (free trial period) www.quia.com (free trial period)
Lesson Plans on Ethics, Jury Duty, Civil Law, Fourth Amendment, Juveniles and The Law Video Library Mock Trials	www.mobar.org
Ethics Lesson Plans	http://ethics.sandiego.edu/resources/cases/HomeOverview.asp http://www.globalethics.org/dilemmas
Crazy Laws *Watch for inappropriate items	www.crazylaws.com
Crime Statistics	www.disastercenter.com/crime/mocrimn.htm www.nationaltcc.org www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs
Dept. Of Justice Kids' Page	www.usdoj.gov/kidspage/index.html
Court System	www.osca.state.mo.us/circuits/index.nsf Video to view online: http://www.missourinet.com/SupremeCourt/video.htm
Lesson Plan on the Trial Process	http://www.courts.wa.gov/education/lessons/Trialpro.cfm
Mock Trials	www.ccle.fourh.umn.edu/trials.html www.streetlaw.org/mockt2.html (Be sure to check out the other great resources at http://www.streetlaw.org Guide to Conducting Mock Trials: www.19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us/bkshelf/resource/mt_conduct.htm Can purchase from: Law Instructor Publications; 203 Victoria Drive; Alexandria, MN 56308 (They also have posters, stories, cross-exam problems, etc.)
Attorney General's Site Excellent source for consumer information and landlord/tenant laws	www.ago.state.mo.us There is a link for publications which has good information in it. You can also request the video or pamphlet called "Know Your Rights."
Consumer Protection Sites	www.consumer-action.org www.class-action.org www.safetyalerts.com www.fcc.gov/cgb/information_directory.html www.bbb.org/alerts www.ago.state.co.us/CONSPROT.stm
Auto Theft	www.auto-theft.info/Statistics.htm
Missouri Marriage Statutes	www.usmarriagelaws.com/search/united_state/missouri.index.shtml http://www.law.cornell.edu/topics/Table_Marriage.htm
Divorce	www.unmarried.org/common-law-marriage.html http://www.divorceinfo.com/alimony.htm
Credit	http://www.successlink.org/gti/gti_lesson.asp?lid=3326 http://www.successlink.org/gti/gti_lesson.asp?lid=2906 There are a number of credit lesson plans at Successlink. www.emich.edu/public/coe/nice/nice.html http://www.usa.visa.com/personal/student/credit_101/take_credit_quiz.html
Wills	www.nolo.com/lawcenter